

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /072 W  
-----030433 220027Z /64

R 211709Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6972

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2871

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO  
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FORMATION OF REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 1891, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 1994

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: RECENT LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS HAVE ANNOUNCED THE  
POTENTIAL FORMATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PR), A GROUP  
APPARENTLY  
REPRESENTING THE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION, CAMPESINO, AND LIBERAL  
PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP IN HONDURAS. WHETHER OR NOT THE PR SUCCEEDS IN

INSCRIBING ITSELF - THE FORMER THE LIKELY OUTCOME - THE ATTEMPT TO  
CREATE THE PARTY REPRESENTS A FURTHER FACTIONALIZATION OF THE ALREADY  
DIVIDED DEMOCRATIC LEFT IN HONDURAS, WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY RESULT  
IN ITS LOSS OF THE PROPOSED 1979 ELECTIONS. THE CREATION OF THE PR  
COULD ALSO ADVERSELY EFFECT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN HONDURAS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS RECENTLY CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF ATTEMPTS TO FORM  
THE  
PR IN HONDURAS. THE PR IS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO REPRESENT PRINCIPALLY

DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION AND CAMPESINO INTERESTS IN HONDURAS; AS WELL  
AS A

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LIMITED GROUP OF LIBERAL PROFESSIONALS. THE MOST PROMINENT NAMES MEN-  
TIONED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PR ARE VICTOR ARTILES OF THE CONFEDERA-  
TION  
OF HONDURAN WORKERS (CTH), REYES RODRIGUEZ OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF HONDURAN CAMPESINOS (ANACH), AND RUDOLFO JIMENEZ OF THE NATIONAL

AGRARIAN REFORM COUNCIL. DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION LEADER AND STRONGMAN CELEO GONZALEZ, PRESIDENT OF FESITRANH (NORTH COAST LABOR FEDERATION) HAS PUBLICLY DISASSOCIATED FROM THE FORMATION OF THE PR, NM IN ADDITION, THE ALIPO (LIBERAL ALLIANCE OF THE PEOPLE) HAS ALSO DISASSOCIATED ITSELF FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE PR AS BEING A METHOD OF FURTHER SPLINTERING THE ALREADY SPLINTERED PROGRESSIVE FORCES WITHIN HONDURAS. LIMITED SECTORS OF THE GOH, MOST NOTABLY THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL INVESTIGATION (DIN) ALSO OPPOSE FORMATION OF THE PR AND CLAIM TO BE PREPARED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE FORMATION OF SUCH A PARTY. (SUCH ACTION IS CONSIDERED HIGHLY UNLIKELY.)

3. LEADERS OF THE GROUP ATTEMPTING TO FORM THE PR ARE CONFIDENT OF THEIR ABILITY TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED 10,000 SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR INSCRIPT-ION UNDER THE PROPOSED NEW ELECTORAL LAW. ARTILES CLAIMS TO HAVE HAD AN OFFER OF 3,000 SIGNATURES FROM ONE DEPARTMENT ALONE. GIVEN THE APPARENT TRADE UNION/CAMPESINO BASE OF THE ORGANIZATION, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE NECESSARY SIGNATURES CAN BE OBTAINED, IF THE PROPOSED ELECTORAL LAW

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RETAINS ITS CURRENT FORM.

4. THE MAJOR FORCES BEHIND THE CREATION OF THE PR ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN, THOUGH TWO MAJOR POSSIBILITIES ARE FORMER LABMIN GUATAMA FONSECA AND FORMER FONMIN MANUEL ACOSTA BONILLA, BOTH OF WHOM WOULD APPEAR TO BE LESS THAN SATISFIED WITH CURRENT LIBERAL PARTY LEADER MODESTO RODAS. RUMORS CONNECTING FORMER CHIEF OF STATE OSWALDO LOPEZ ARELLANO TO PR APPEAR TO BE UNFOUNDED.

5. BEGIN COMMENT: UNDER PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE PR WILL SUCCESSFULLY BE INSCRIBED AS A LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY. HOWEVER, INSCRIPTION OF THE PR WILL LEAD TO A FURTHER FACTIONALIZATION

OF THE PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE COUNTRY AND THE INCREASED PROBABILITY

OF AN ELECTION VICTORY BY THE NATIONALIST PARTY, CURRENTLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE RIGHT WING. INSCRIPTION OF THE PR COULD ALSO EVENTUALLY HAVE NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT BY BRINGING THAT MOVEMENT INTO THE POLITICAL ARENA.

END COMMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009